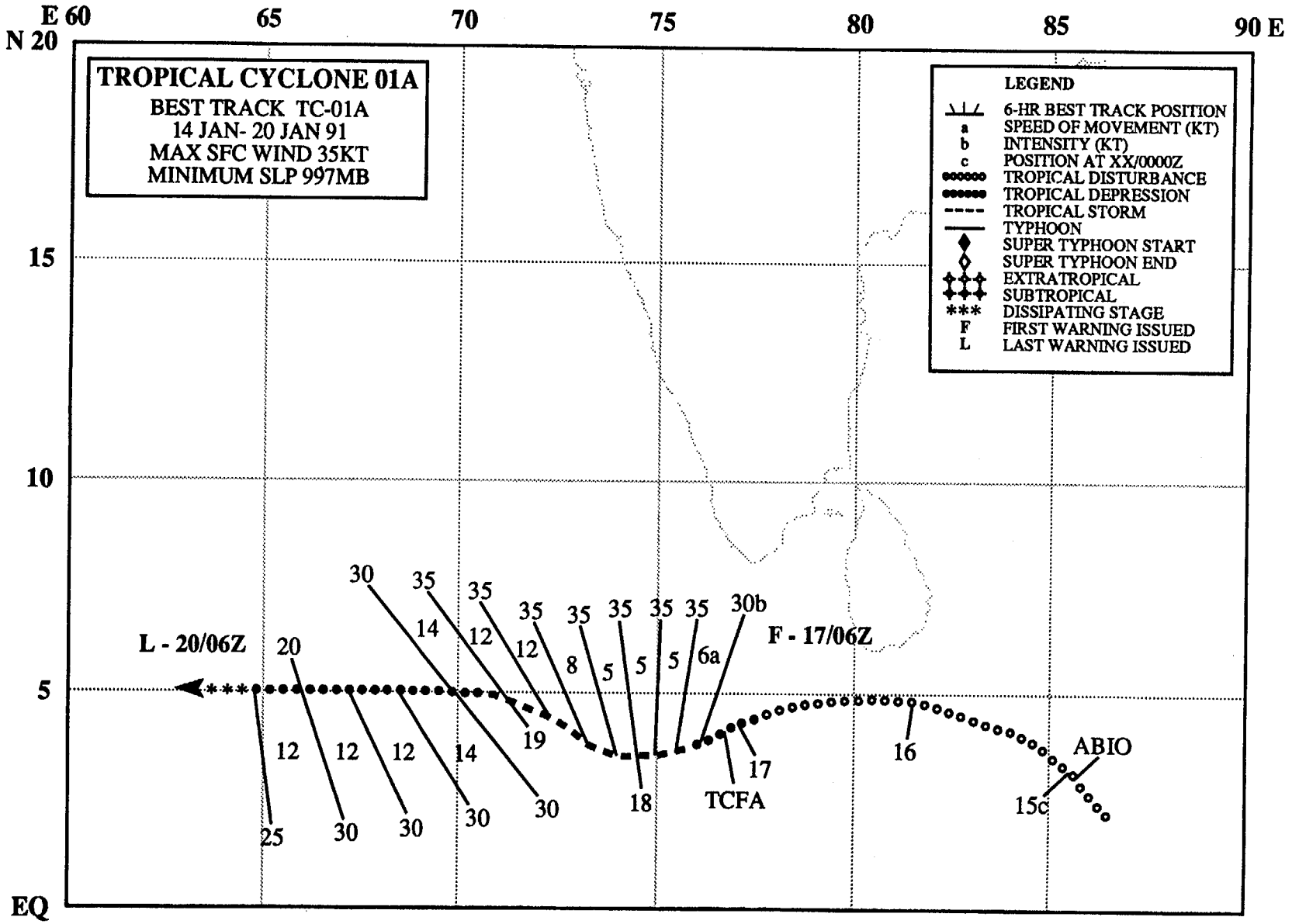
E 60
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EQ
TROPICAL CYCLONE 01A
BEST TRACK TC-01A
14 JAN- 20 JAN 91
MAX SFC WIND 35KT
MINIMUM SLP 997MB
LEGEND
6-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
a SPEED OF MOVEMENT (KT)
b INTENSITY (KT)
c POSITION AT XX/0000Z
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON
SUPER TYPHOON START
SUPER TYPHOON END
EXTRATROPICAL
SUBTROPICAL
*** DISSIPATING STAGE
F FIRST WARNING ISSUED
L LAST WARNING ISSUED
L - 20/06Z
F - 17/06Z
TCFA
ABIO
20
25
12
30
12
30
12
30
14
30
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14
35
12
35
19
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8
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6a
30b
18
17
16
15c

TROPICAL CYCLONE 01A

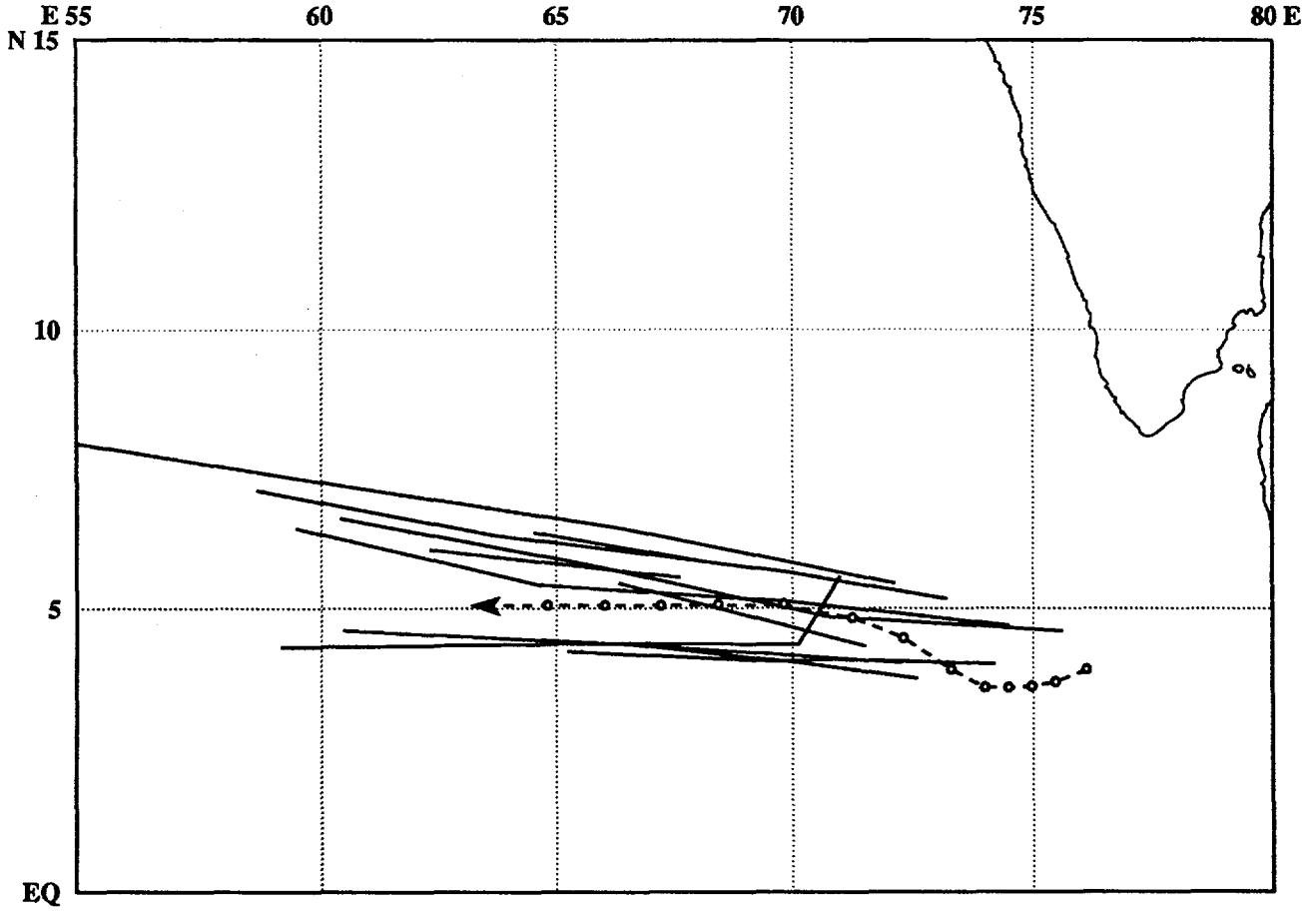

Figure 3-01A-1. On the same day that hostilities erupted in the Persian Gulf, an area of organized convection persisted near Sri Lanka. Because this area posed a potential threat to Allied forces operating in the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, and the 141800Z January Significant Tropical Weather Advisory was reissued at 142300Z. A steady increase in convection which indicated that the disturbance was intensifying, prompted a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert at 170300Z. The first warning followed at 170600Z. Tropical Cyclone 01A tracked westward under a narrow subtropical ridge, and failed to intensify past minimal tropical storm intensity due to strong vertical wind shear. Strong upper-level winds stripped most of the deep convection away from the center on 18 January, and the remaining low-level circulation slowly dissipated in the Arabian Sea. The final warning was issued at 200600Z.

Although Tropical Cyclone 01A was the first tropical cyclone to develop during January in the Arabian Sea through the past 20 years of record, it was not a significant factor in the Persian Gulf build-up. Because of its low-latitude track and weak intensity, it had little effect on ships steaming to the Middle East. A summary of JTWC forecasts versus the official best track shows the difficulty in positioning the poorly defined cloud system center, producing the large scatter of initial warning positions.